

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 225268
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:GMATTHEWS:AJ
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS
S/MS:JMJOYCE
EUR/SOV:SMCCALL
S/S-O:JTHYDEN
EUR/EE:CSCHMIDT
C:I WOLF
EA/PRC/M:D ANDERSON
NEA:D KORN

-----119396 060144Z /73

O R 060115Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T STATE 225268

EXDIS, NICOSIA FOR COUNSELOR NIMETZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, UR, US, RO

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS FOR NIMETZ'S
MEETINGS WITH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS

1. FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS/GUIDANCE FOR COUNSELOR'S
POSSIBLE USE IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH CEAUSESCU AND/OR
ROMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER.

2. CEAUSESCU CLOSELY FOLLOWS AND IS WELL AWARE OF THE
RECENT COURSE OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS SINCE IT CONSTITUTES
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AN IMPORTANT BACKDROP TO ROMANIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. HIS
INTEREST WILL BE ALL THE MORE ACUTE IN VIEW OF HUA'S VISIT
TO ROMANIA AND WHAT THE SOVIETS MAY PERCEIVE AS INCREASED
MOMENTUM BEHIND ,PLAYING THE CHINA CARD." ON CHINA, YOU
SHOULD REAFFIRM THE CONSISTENT US POSITION THAT NORMALIZA-
TION OF SINO-US RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE 1972 SHANGHAI
COMMUNIQUE IS NOT DIRECTED AT THE INTERESTS OF THIRD PARTIES,

INCLUDING THE USSR. IT WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO ELICIT ANY COMMENTS ROMANIANS MAY HAVE ON HEIGHTENED SOVIET CONCERN OVER CHINA AND ITS RECENT ACTIVISM ON THE WORLD SCENE, PARTICULARLY AS THIS RELATES TO SOVIET PERCEPTIONS OF US POLICY.

3. ON THE GENERAL STATE OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS, YOU MAY

CANDIDLY NOTE THAT BOTH THE ATMOSPHERE AND PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS HAVE BEEN POOR FOR SOME TIME. CONTRARY TO SOVIET PROPAGANDA, HOWEVER, THIS HAS NOT BEEN THE RESULT OF A CHANGE IN US POLICY TOWARD A MORE "HARD-LINE" APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS, BUT, RATHER, LARGELY A FUNCTION OF ACTIONS WHICH THE SOVIETS THEMSELVES HAVE TAKEN WITH THE CLEAR KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY WOULD IMPACT NEGATIVELY ON OVERALL US-SOVIET RELATIONS. SOVIET/CUBAN ACTIONS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND SOVIET TRIALS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES (SHCHARANSKIY, ORLOV, GINZBURG AND OTHERS) ARE MAJOR EXAMPLES. OTHERS INCLUDE THE ARREST AND TRIAL OF THE AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN CRAWFORD AND THE COURT ACTIONS BROUGHT AGAINST THE AMERICAN NEWSPAPERMEN (WHITNEY AND PIPER).

4. CONCERN OVER THE ADMITTEDLY NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF CURRENT US-SOVIET RELATIONS SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, DETRACT FROM OTHER IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF THE RELATIONSHIP WHERE
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WE CONTINUE TO SEEK RESTRAINT IN COMPETITION AND ENHANCED SECURITY THROUGH ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS. YOU MAY EMPHASIZE TO ROMANIANS THAT THE US REMAINS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE CONCLUSION OF A SOUND AND MUTUAL ADVANTAGEOUS SALT II AGREEMENT. THE PRESENT VISIT OF AMBASSADOR WARNKE TO MOSCOW, TO BE FOLLOWED BY TALKS LATER IN THE MONTH BETWEEN SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AND HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIALS HERE IN THE US, IS INDICATIVE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD SALT. FURTHER, THE PAST YEAR HAS SEEN THE ONSET OF TWO NEW SETS OF ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND SOVIET UNION, NAMELY CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS AND ANTI-SATELLITE WEAPONS. SERIOUS WORK CONTINUES IN GENEVA ON NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN AND CHEMICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS. AND BOTH THE EAST AND WEST HAVE TABLED NEW INITIATIVES IN MBFR.

5. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, AN AREA OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO CEAUSESCU, YOU MAY NOTE THAT THE US HAS CONSISTENTLY DEVOTED GREAT EFFORT TOWARD ACHIEVING A JUST, COMPREHENSIVE AND DURABLE PEACE. NOTHING IN US POLICY JUSTIFIES SOVIET CRITICISM, AGAIN REFLECTED IN SOVIET PROPAGANDA COMMENT-

TARIES ON THE CAMP DAVID MEETING, THAT THE US IS SOMEHOW SEEKING UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE US CONTINUES TO VIEW THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AS OUR ULTIMATE GOAL. FOR ITS PART, THE US WOULD WELCOME A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE SOVIET APPROACH TO THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY, WHICH WE SEE AS A PRACTICAL STEP TOWARD RECONVENING AT GENEVA AND A COMPREHENSIVE

SETTLEMENT, AND TO THE OBVIOUS DANGERS POSED BY THE AREA'S TENSIONS.

6. ON AFRICA, YOU MAY TELL ROMANIANS THAT THE US STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT THE CONTINENT SHOULD NOT BECOME THE FOCUS FOR OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT AND INTERVENTION, AS REPRESENTED
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BY SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. THE US SEEKS AND HAS ACTIVELY PROMOTED EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND EXPECTS THAT THE SOVIET UNION WILL NOT ADOPT A SPOILER ROLE WHICH WOULD ADD TO THE AREA'S EXISTING PROBLEMS AND TENSIONS.

7. ROMANIAN PERCEPTIONS OF SOVIET POLICIES CONCERNING SOME OF THE ABOVE ISSUES WILL BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST SINCE YOUR MEETINGS IN THE BUCHAREST COME IN THE WAKE OF HUA'S VISIT AND ON THE EVE OF GROMYKO'S VISIT TO THE US FOR THE OPENING OF THE UNGA AND TALKS WITH US OFFICIALS.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE225268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GMATTHEWS:AJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780362-0031
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780997/aaaadcrr.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2a72fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1530113
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALKING POINTS ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS FOR NIMETZ'S MEETINGS WITH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS
TAGS: PEPR, UR, US, RO, (NIMETZ, MATTHEW)
To: NICOSIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2a72fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014